

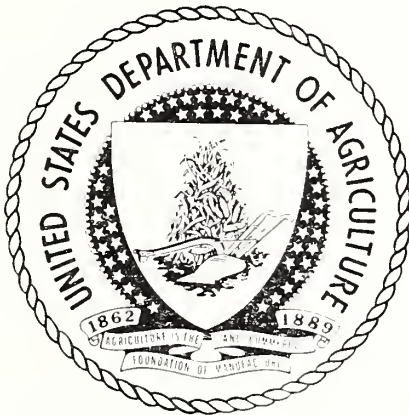
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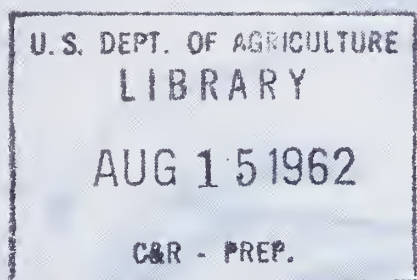
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Careers
for You
in...



AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS

Economic Research Service
Statistical Reporting Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture



Careers For You In Agricultural Economics And Statistics

Nearly all of the economic and statistical activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are now under one "roof." This roof is Agricultural Economics, one of the five major administrative groups of the Department.

Making up Agricultural Economics are two subject matter agencies--the Statistical Reporting Service (SRS) and the Economic Research Service (ERS).

These two agencies currently employ more than 500 economists and more than 650 statisticians. Most of the economists are in ERS and most of the statisticians in SRS. Position vacancies resulting from the normal turnover each year, as well as new jobs created by expanded research programs, are filled by college graduates with a bachelor's, a master's, or a Ph.D. degree. Those with a bachelor's degree qualify by obtaining eligibility through the Federal Service Entrance Examination. Those with a master's or Ph.D. degree qualify under announcements for Agricultural Economist and Analytical Statisticians.

The Statistical Reporting Service and the Economic Research Service also employ a limited number of student trainees each year. Students interested should file under Civil Service Commission announcements for student trainees.

JOB FOR ECONOMISTS AND STATISTICIANS IN ERS

ERS carries out broad research programs in agricultural economics and related fields.

The programs are many in number and kind. Some are short-term, others long-range. Some are domestic in scope, others deal with foreign agriculture. Some are

concerned only with certain products or with certain segments of the Nation's farms or markets; others are designed to give an over-all picture.

Economists employed by ERS work in Washington, D. C., and in numerous field locations throughout the United States, usually at State land-grant colleges and universities.

The jobs done by agricultural economists employed by ERS fall into four main categories. They are:

1. Farm Economics, the study of farm production problems, land and water resource problems, farm financial problems, and rural development.

2. Economic and Statistical Analysis, the study of agriculture's position in the national economy.

3. Marketing Economics, the study concerned with the marketing of farm products from the time they leave the farm until they reach the consumer.

4. Agricultural Economics (International), the analysis and interpretation of world agricultural conditions and developments that affect foreign markets for United States farm products.

The work of ERS is done in five divisions.

Farm Economics Division

Economists employed in this Division conduct research in these fields:

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENTS.--Agricultural adjustments; production or supply responses; farm and ranch management; economics of farm size and related resource requirements.

AGRICULTURAL FINANCE.--Farm credit and financial management; farm real estate market and values; agricultural risks and insurance; farm taxation and rural government.

COST, INCOME, AND EFFICIENCY.--Past and prospective trends in farm production and productivity; farm costs and returns by types of farms; the use of farm labor and

specified capital resources; effects of new farm technology and trends in use of technology.

LAND AND WATER ECONOMICS.--Extent, use, and control of land and water resources; institutional and group activities aspects of land and water resource development, management, programs, and policies.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT.--The characteristics of chronically depressed rural areas and opportunities for adjustment; problems of rural economic development; coordination of rural development research in ERS.

Economic and Statistical Analysis Division

Agricultural Economists and Analytical Statisticians employed in this Division conduct research in these fields:

OUTLOOK AND PROJECTIONS.--Current and prospective economic position of principal agricultural commodities; long-run projections of economic growth and demand for farm products; food consumption and utilization.

COMMODITY ANALYSIS.--Supply, demand, and price of agricultural commodities; development of new statistical methods; application of these and existing methods to strengthening of outlook and situation work and appraisal of alternative farm programs.

FARM INCOME.--Estimates of farm income; estimates of income and expenditures; interrelationship of farm income and national income and income parity for agriculture.

FARM POPULATION.--Farm manpower; farm population; levels of living.

Marketing Economics Division

Agricultural Economists employed in this Division conduct marketing research in these fields:

MARKET STRUCTURE AND COSTS.--Organizational structure and practices of com-

modity markets; management services needed for marketing firms; transportation costs and services.

MARKET POTENTIALS.--Potentials for expanding markets for agricultural products and byproducts; new crops for food, feed, and industrial uses; new products; new uses.

MARKET DEVELOPMENT.--Evaluation of economic aspects of public distribution programs; determination of principles, practices, and procedures to aid agricultural industries in improving operations in merchandising their products.

MARKETING SPECIFIC PRODUCTS.--Economic and cost analysis relating to marketing of various animal products and crops, with emphasis on those in abundant supply.

Regional Analysis Division

Agricultural Economists (International) and International Economists (General) employed in this Division--

- Conduct continuing economic analysis and interpretation of conditions, forces, and developments that affect the supply, demand, and trade in farm products in more than 100 countries.
- Conduct economic analysis of trade policies, programs, and proposals of the United States, foreign governments, and international bodies.
- Conduct research on the competitive position of U. S. farm products in foreign markets.
- Interpret the significance of soil, climate, and other physiographic factors that affect world agriculture.
- Represent the Department on interdepartmental committees on studies of foreign countries.

Development and Trade Analysis Division

Agricultural Economists (International) employed in this division--

- Conduct programs concerned with economic studies of foreign economic

development, of foreign trade, and of international monetary and financial conditions and policies that affect trade and export of U. S. farm products.

- Interpret, analyze, and present U. S. and world agricultural trade statistics.
- Conduct research related to Public Law 480 and other food aid programs.
- Coordinate Department participation in formulation and development of trade and financial arrangements.
- Represent the Department at international trade conferences.

JOBS FOR STATISTICIANS IN SRS

SRS is the Nation's chief collector of agricultural statistics. Its biggest job is the reporting and estimating of crop and livestock production and agricultural prices. It also is responsible for the review and improvement of statistics in all of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Statisticians employed by SRS work in the Washington office or in one of the 43 field offices throughout the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Most statisticians start their career in SRS doing statistical work in one of the following subject matter fields: Agricultural prices, dairy, field crops, fruit and vegetables, livestock and poultry.

Data are collected mainly through mailed questionnaires, enumerative surveys, and objective measurement surveys. There is a considerable amount of field travel within each State, visiting farmers, ranchers, and business establishments in the collection of required sample data.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Positions in the Federal Service are classified into grade levels according to the responsibilities and complexities of the work performed.

ERS Economists usually enter at grades GS-5 through GS-11; a few enter at GS-12. SRS Statisticians normally enter at grade GS-5 or GS-7; however, appointments at higher levels are not unusual. Differences in starting grades result from differences in the individual's educational background and experience. The minimum requirements for these grades are listed below.

Requirements for Agricultural Economists

For GS-5

In order to qualify, prospective candidates at the GS-5 level must obtain eligibility through the Federal Service Entrance Examination. Applicants must show that they meet one of the following requirements and pass a written test.

- A. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major study in agricultural economics; or major study in general economics, business administration, political science, or sociology with at least 12 semester hours* in agricultural economics and 3 semester hours in statistics.
- B. Course-work totaling 21 semester hours that includes at least 12 semester hours in agricultural economics and 3 semester hours of statistics, plus 6 hours of any combination of any of the studies mentioned above; plus appropriate experience and education that, when combined with the required courses, will total 4 years of education and experience and give the applicant a technical knowledge comparable to that acquired through successful completion of a 4-year college course.

For GS-7

Applicants who meet the qualifications for grade GS-5 may also be rated for grade

*For required number of quarter hours, multiply number of required semester hours by 1 1/3.

GS-7 if they can meet one of the following additional requirements:

- A. One full year (30 semester hours) of graduate study or all the requirements for a master's degree, with major study in agricultural economics, business administration, political science, or sociology.
- B. One year of appropriate experience; related trainee experience in Government or industry may be credited toward this requirement.
- C. A sufficiently high score in the FSEE written test and a college grade average of "B" or better or rank in the top fourth of the class.

For GS-9, GS-11, and GS-12

Numerous combinations of education and experience that will qualify an applicant for a rating of GS-9 or above as an agricultural economist are listed in the Civil Service Commission examination announcement for Agricultural Economist. Of special interest to graduate students may be the requirements listed below:

GS-9.--Applicants may be rated eligible for positions at this grade level if they have:

- A. Completed all requirements for the master's degree within the past two years (or if they expect to complete the requirements within 9 months) and have demonstrated superior ability in their graduate studies.
- B. Or had 2 years of professional experience, one year of which must have been at the GS-7 level or equivalent.

GS-11.--Applicants may be rated eligible for positions at this level if they have:

- A. Met the requirements for qualifying at the GS-9 level within the past 2 years and had at least 1 year of subsequent work experience at the GS-9 level pertinent to the specialized field of economics for which the application is made.

- B. Or completed all requirements for the Ph.D. degree (or an equivalent degree).

GS-12.--Applicants who have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within the past two years, as well as those who expect to complete the requirements within 9 months, may be rated eligible for GS-12 positions if they have demonstrated superior ability in their graduate studies.

Requirements for Agricultural Statisticians

Positions are in the competitive service, and eligibility is obtained through the Federal Service Entrance Examination at the GS-5 or GS-7 level.

For GS-5

Applicants must meet one of the following requirements:

- A. A full 4-year course in an accredited college or university leading to a Bachelor's degree with (1) 15 semester hours of statistics (or in combination of Mathematics and Statistics of which at least 6 semester hours must be in Statistics) or (2) for those agencies having a formalized supplementary education and training programs designed to provide 6 additional semester hours of training in Statistics (or their equivalent) during the first three years of employment, nine semester hours of Statistics (or in combination of Mathematics and Statistics of which at least 6 semester hours must be in Statistics) and 15 additional semester hours in an appropriate field such as Agriculture, Agricultural Economics, Etc.
- B. Course-work as specified in A above, plus appropriate experience* and education, which, when combined with the required courses, will total 4 years of education and experience. The education and experience should give the applicant a technical knowledge comparable to that which would have been acquired through successful completion of a 4-year college course.

* This would consist of assisting in the collection, compiling, analyzing, summarizing, and interpreting of statistical data relating to agriculture and foods.

For GS-7

Applicants who meet the qualifications for grade GS-5 may also be rated for grade GS-7 if they can meet one of the following additional requirements:

- A. One full year (30 semester hours) of graduate study or all the requirements for a master's degree, with major study in statistics, mathematics, agriculture, or agricultural economics.
- B. One year of appropriate professional experience.
- C. A sufficiently high score in the FSEE written test and a college grade average of "B" or better or rank in the top fourth of the class.

JOB BENEFITS

Promotion based on achievement and professional growth.

Regular salary increases.

5-day, 40-hour workweek.

Liberal vacation and sick leave with pay.

Excellent retirement system.

Low-cost life and health insurance.

SALARIES

Minimum and maximum annual salaries for grades GS-5 through 12 are shown below. Employees are usually appointed at the minimum salary shown; through regularly scheduled increases they reach the maximum rate if they remain in the grade a sufficient length of time.

Grade	Annual salary	
	Minimum	Maximum
GS-5	\$4,345	\$5,830
GS-7	5,355	6,315
GS-9	6,435	7,920
GS-11	7,560	9,640
GS-12	8,955	11,035

Trainees may be placed under an accelerated training program which could make them eligible for promotion to the next grade level at the end of 6 months of intensive training.

For further information concerning employment in the Economic Research Service or Statistical Reporting Service, communicate with:

Division of Personnel
Management Operations Staff
Agricultural Economics
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.







